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BOX: PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Hirokazu KONDO
**METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING COLOR CONVERSION TABLE AND
APPARATUS FOR GENERATING PROOF USING COLOR CONVERSION TABLE**
Our Reference: Q58053

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including the specification, claims, executed Declaration and Power of Attorney, eight (8) sheets of drawings, one (1) priority document, executed Assignment and PTO Form 1595.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total Claims	17 - 20 =	0 x \$18 =	\$ 000.00
Independent Claims	3 - 3 =	0 x \$78 =	\$ 000.00
Base Filing Fee	(\$690.00)		\$ 690.00
Multiple Dep. Claim Fee	(\$260.00)		\$ 000.00
TOTAL FILING FEE			\$ 690.00
Recordation of Assignment Fee			\$ 40.00
TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT FEE			\$ 730.00

Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$ 690.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$ 40.00 are attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from:

Japanese Patent Application

Filing Date

Patent Application No. 11-213485

July 28, 1999

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METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING COLOR CONVERSION
TABLE AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING PROOF USING COLOR
CONVERSION TABLE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to a method of and an apparatus for generating a color conversion table which converts color data to be processed by a first device into color data to be processed by a second device, and an apparatus for generating a proof using such a color conversion table.

Description of the Related Art:

In order to produce desired printed materials of color images, it is necessary to take into account various printing conditions including the type of inks used, the printing sheets used, the illumination with which to observe the printed materials, etc. Desired printing conditions could be established by actually printing color images under various possible printing conditions. However, it would be unrealistic to produce test prints under all combinations of possible printing conditions because such test prints would incur an unduly expenditure of time and money.

There has been developed a printing proof generating apparatus capable of easily simulating the finished state of a printed material without actually producing the printed material. The printing proof generating apparatus operates

by converting image data to be printed under various printing conditions to generate device-independent colorimetric data of colors expected of the final printed material, thereafter converting the colorimetric data into proof image data taking into account the characteristics of the printing proof generating apparatus, and then generating a proof based on the proof image data.

Since printing conditions can freely be established using a conversion table which converts image data into colorimetric data, it is possible to generate a proof easily and inexpensively and then to determine printing conditions under which to produce the desired printed material from the generated proof.

All colors of a color printed material can theoretically be produced from three colors of C (cyan), M (magenta), and Y (yellow). However, inks of these three colors may not necessarily have ideal spectral characteristics. In order to eliminate such a drawback, color printed materials are usually produced using inks of four colors which include the above three colors and an additional color of K (black). The printing proof generating apparatus also uses such four colors of C, M, Y, K for producing more accurate proofs.

A printed material and a proof thereof may colorimetrically be equivalent to each other, but may not necessarily be in sufficient agreement to the eye of an observer. Most typically, when a printed material composed of halftone dots is formed using only an ink of K, if a proof thereof is pro-

duced using a combination of inks of C, M, Y that are colorimetrically equivalent to the printed material, then the proof may possibly appear appreciably different from the printed material to the observer when observed microscopically. According to another example, while a printed material is formed using an ink of Y, a proof thereof may contain an ink of M in addition to the ink of Y. In addition, a printed material and a proof thereof, though colorimetrically equivalent to each other, may possibly be observed differently from each other if their halftone dot area percentages differ from each other. Such discrepancies manifest themselves in highlights and shadows of the image. The same problem arises if the dot gains of the printed material and the proof differ from each other.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is a general object of the present invention to provide a method of and an apparatus for generating a color conversion table which is capable of converting desired color data to be processed by a first device into color data to be processed by a second device while constraining the desired color data.

A major object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for generating a proof which agrees with evaluations and does not make the observer feel discrepancies when a proof of an image to be generated by a first device is produced by a second device and evaluated.

The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which preferred embodiments of the present invention are shown by way of illustrative example.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a printing proof generating apparatus which incorporates a method of and an apparatus for generating a color conversion table and an apparatus for generating a proof according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrative of the method of generating a color conversion table;

FIG. 3 is a flowchart of a process of generating a printer profile shown in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a view showing a displayed image for setting constraint conditions for color mixing prevention;

FIG. 5 is a diagram showing constraint conditions set for area percentage equalization priority;

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrative of a color conversion table modified according to the constraint conditions set for area percentage equalization priority;

FIG. 7 is a diagram showing the relationship between image data and luminance in terms of dot gains; and

FIG. 8 is a view showing a displayed image for setting constraint conditions for color mixing prevention and area percentage equalization priority according to another em-

bodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

According to the present invention, if constraint conditions are established to constrain the conversion relationship of particular primary color data or secondary color data selected from the colors of C, M, Y, K, then when image data to be processed by a first device comprises only the particular primary color data or secondary color data, the image data to be processed by the first device is converted into image data to be processed by a second device such that the image data to be processed by the second device comprises only the particular primary color data or secondary color data. By converting the image data to be processed by the first device into the image data to be processed by the second device using a color conversion table set based on the above constraint conditions and thereafter generating a proof with a printer or the like as the second device, the observer can compare and evaluate an image generated by the first device and the proof generated by the second device with the selected particular primary color data or secondary color data without feeling appreciable discrepancies therebetween.

If constraint conditions are established to save the halftone dot area percentage of a particular range of color data, then the halftone dot area percentage of an image generated by a first device and the halftone dot area percenta-

ge of a proof generated by a second device can be equalized to each other in the particular range, allowing the observer to compare and evaluate the image and the proof without feeling appreciable discrepancies therebetween. The constraint conditions to save the halftone dot area percentage of the particular range can be established for each particular color data. Furthermore, by establishing a junction range between the above particular range and another range as a constraint condition, the halftone dot area percentages of the image generated by the first device and the proof generated by the second device can be equalized to each other in the particular range, a colorimetrically corresponding proof can be generated using a color conversion table in the other range, and a proof in which halftone dot area percentages are made continuous without discrepancies can be generated in the junction range.

If constraint conditions are established in order to save a dot gain of color data, an image generated by a first device and a proof generated by a second device can be compared and evaluated with equalized dot gains.

FIG. 1 shown in block form of an overall arrangement of a printing proof generating apparatus 10 according to the present invention.

The printing proof generating apparatus 10 is an apparatus for generating, for evaluation, a proof of a printed material, which is to be produced by a printing machine 12 (first device) based on printing image data C, M, Y, K as

separated into four colors of C (cyan), M (magenta), Y (yellow), and K (black), with a printer 16 (second device or proof output means). The printing proof generating apparatus 10 has a color converter 14 (color converting means) having a color conversion table for converting color data D comprising the printing image data C, M, Y, K into color data D' comprising proof image data C', M', Y', K' of corresponding four colors.

The printing proof generating apparatus 10 also has a color conversion table generator 18 (color conversion table generating means) for generating the color conversion table of the color converter 14. To the color conversion table generator 18, there are connected a printing profile storage unit 19 (first profile storage unit) for storing a printing profile established depending on printing conditions for the printed material to be generated by the printing machine 12, and a printer profile storage unit 21 (second profile storage unit) for storing a printer profile established depending on output conditions for the proof to be generated by the printer 16. The printing profile storage unit 19 and the printer profile storage unit 21 jointly serve as a color conversion table storage means.

The printing conditions are conditions including the type of inks used, the printing sheets used, the printing pressure applied upon printing, and the inherent characteristics of the printing machine 12, etc. A plurality of printing profiles are established depending on combinations

of those printing conditions. The output conditions are conditions including the types of inks used for printout, printing sheets used for printout, and the inherent characteristics of the printer 16, etc. A plurality of printer profiles are established depending on combinations of those output conditions.

To the color conversion table generator 18, there is also connected a constraint condition acquisition unit 23 for acquiring constraint conditions to be added in the generation of a color conversion table. The constraint condition acquisition unit 23 acquires constraint conditions which have been established and stored in a constraint condition storage unit 25 (constraint condition storage means) or constraint conditions which are established by the operator using a constraint condition setting unit 27, and supplies the selected constraint conditions to the color conversion table generator 18. Alternatively, the constraint condition acquisition unit 23 (constraint condition selecting means) may select desired constraint conditions from the constraint condition storage unit 25 based on information entered by the operator using the constraint condition setting unit 27, and supply the selected constraint conditions to the color conversion table generator 18.

The constraint condition acquisition unit 23, the constraint condition storage unit 25, and the constraint condition setting unit 27 jointly make up a constraint condition setting means. The constraint condition setting means, the

color conversion table generator 18, printing profile storage unit 19, and the printer profile storage unit 21 make up an apparatus for generating a color conversion table according to the present invention.

5 The printing proof generating apparatus 10 is basically constructed as described above. A method of generating a color conversion table in the printing proof generating apparatus 10 will be described below.

10 First, a process of generating a basic color conversion table prior to the setting of constraint conditions will be described below with reference to FIGS. 2 and 3.

15 The basic color conversion table is generated by combining the printing profile 22 stored in the printing profile storage unit 19, the printer profile 24 stored in the printer profile storage unit 21, and a K gradation conversion table 26.

20 The printing profile 22 is a conversion table for converting color data D composed of printing image data C, M, Y, K into colorimetric data L^* , a^* , b^* in the CIE colorimetric system which are device-independent image data. The printing profile 22 can be determined as follows:
First, a printed material is produced under given printing conditions by the printing machine 12 from printing image data C, M, Y, K, and then colorimetric data L^* , a^* , b^* of
25 the printed material are colorimetrically determined. The printing profile 22 is determined as a relationship between the printing image data C, M, Y, K and the colorimetric data

L*, a*, b*, for conversion from the printing image data C, M, Y, K into the colorimetric data L*, a*, b*.

The printer profile 24 is a conversion table for converting the colorimetric data L*, a*, b* into color data D' comprising proof image data C', M', Y', K' depending on the output characteristics of the printer 16. The printer profile 24 is established depending on the output characteristics of the printer 16, and can be determined according to a process of generating a printer profile as shown in FIG. 3.

The process of generating a printer profile as shown in FIG. 3 will be described below. First, a plurality of proof image data C', M', Y', K' including the proof image data K' at an area percentage of 0 % and the remaining proof image data C', M', Y' at area percentages in increments of 10 % are generated in step S1. Using the proof image data C', M', Y', K', a chart comprising a plurality of patches is generated by the printer 16 in step S2. Then, the colorimetric data L*, a*, b* of the patches are measured with a colorimeter in step S3. Then, a forward conversion table LUT ((C'M'Y'K' → Lab) for converting the proof image data C', M', Y', K' (0 %) into the colorimetric data L*, a*, b* is determined in step S4.

Using the forward conversion table LUT (C'M'Y'K' → Lab), a reverse conversion table LUT (LabK' → C'M'Y') for converting colorimetric data L*, a*, b* with respect to the proof image data K' (0 %) into proof image data C', M', Y' is determined in step S5. The reverse conversion table LUT

(LabK' \rightarrow C'M'Y') can be determined using the Newtonian method which is a typical successive approximation method.

Then, the proof image data K' is updated in incremental area percentages of 10 %, 20 %, ..., 100 % in step S6.

5 Then, the processing in steps S1 through S5 is repeated to determine reverse conversion tables LUT (LabK' \rightarrow C'M'Y') for converting colorimetric data L*, a*, b* with respect to the constant proof image data K' into proof image data C', M', Y' in step S7.

10 A plurality of reverse conversion tables LUT (LabK' \rightarrow C'M'Y') thus determined are stored as the printer profile 24 in the printer profile storage unit 21.

15 The K gradation conversion table 26 serves to convert the gradation of printing image data K depending on the output characteristics of the printer 16 to generate the proof image data K'. The K gradation conversion table 26 is established such that the colorimetric value of a printed material composed of only the printing image data K is equalized to the colorimetric value of a proof composed of only the proof image data K'.

20 The color conversion table generator 18 combines the printing profile 22, the printer profile 24, and the K gradation conversion table 26 thus established, thereby generating a color conversion table with K saved for converting the color data D comprising the printing image data C, M, Y, K into the color data D' comprising the proof image data C', M', Y', K'.

The color conversion table generator 18 modifies the color conversion table thus generated depending on constraint conditions, thereby producing a new color conversion table.

5 FIG. 4 shows a displayed image for setting constraint conditions for color mixing prevention. The displayed image allows the operator to set constraint conditions for constraining a conversion relationship of primary color data of C, M, Y, K or secondary color data of R, G, B. It is assumed that the operator has set constraint conditions for constraining primary color data of Y and secondary color data of R ($= M + Y$) and G ($= C + Y$), for example, using the constraint condition setting unit 27.

10 It is assumed that the color conversion table generated by combining the printing profile 22, the printer profile 24, and the K gradation conversion table 26 is represented by LUT (CMYK \rightarrow C'M'Y'K'). The color conversion table generator 18 changes data of a color conversion table LUT (00Y0 \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') for converting printing image data Y with printing image data C = M = K = 0 into the proof image data C', M', Y', K', to data LUT (00Y0 \rightarrow 00Y'0) with proof image data C' = M' = K' = 0, with respect to the constraint conditions for constraining the primary color data of Y as acquired by the constraint condition acquisition unit 23, and sets the changed data in the color converter 14.

25 Similarly, the color conversion table generator 18 changes a color conversion table LUT (0MY0 \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') and a

color conversion table LUT ($COY0 \rightarrow C'M'Y'K'$) to a color conversion table LUT ($OMY0 \rightarrow O'M'Y'O$) and a color conversion table LUT ($COY0 \rightarrow C'OY'O$) with respect to the constraint conditions for constraining the secondary color data of R, G, and sets the changed color conversion tables in the color converter 14.

After the new color conversion tables with the constraint conditions set have been set in the color converter 14, arbitrary printing image data C, M, Y, K are converted into proof image data C', M', Y', K' by the color conversion tables with the constraint conditions, and the proof image data C', M', Y', K' are supplied to the printer 16. The printer 16 then generates a proof based on the supplied proof image data C', M', Y', K'.

If the printing image data C, M, Y, K comprise image data of Y only, image data of R only, or image data of G only, then the generated proof is free of mixed other colors. Even when the observer observes the proof at a magnified scale, therefore, the observer can evaluate the printing conditions without appreciable discrepancies because the colors of the proof are in agreement with the colors of the printed material.

A plurality of sets of constraint conditions may be stored in the constraint condition storage unit 25, and the constraint condition acquisition unit 23 may select a desired set of constraint conditions from the constraint condition storage unit 25 based on information entered by the

operator using the constraint condition setting unit 27, and supply the selected constraint conditions to the color conversion table generator 18 for the generation of a color conversion table.

5 FIG. 5 shows constraint conditions set for equalizing area percentages of an image in a particular range. As shown in FIG. 5, the operator can arbitrarily set area percentage equalized ranges 28a, 28b for equalizing area percentages, color equalized ranges 30 for equalizing colors without changing the basic color conversion table, and junction ranges 32a, 32b disposed between the area percentage equalized ranges 28a, 28b and the color equalized ranges 30 for making a gradual shift from the equalized area percentages toward the equalized colors, between the respective primary color data of the printing image data C, M, Y, K and the respective primary color data of the proof image data C', M', Y', K'. The area percentage equalized ranges 28a and the junction ranges 32a are ranges set in highlights of the image, and the area percentage equalized ranges 28b and the junction ranges 32b are ranges set in shadows (solid image areas) of the image.

10 The color conversion table generator 18 modifies the color conversion table LUT (CMYK \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') in order for the printing image data C, M, Y, K to be equalized respectively to the proof image data C', M', Y', K', with respect to the area percentage equalized ranges 28a, 28b. The color conversion table generator 18 modifies the color conversion

table LUT (CMYK \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') by way of interpolation in order to make a gradual shift from the relationship in which the printing image data C, M, Y, K are equalized respectively to the proof image data C', M', Y', K' to the relationship of the color conversion table LUT (CMYK \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') already set for the color equalization ranges 30, with respect to the junction ranges 32a, 32b. The color conversion table generator 18 holds the color conversion table LUT (CMYK \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') as it is, with respect to the color equalization ranges 30. The color conversion table LUT (CMYK \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') thus modified is set in the color converter 14.

In FIG. 6, the solid-line curve represents the color conversion table LUT (CMYK \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') that is set in the color converter 14 for converting printing image data C into proof image data C'.

If arbitrary printing image data C, M, Y, K are converted into proof image data C', M', Y', K' using the color conversion table thus set and a proof is generated from the proof image data C', M', Y', K' by the printer 16, then in the area percentage equalized ranges 28a, 28b, since the area percentages of the printed material and the proof are equal to each other, the observer can compare and evaluate images without feeling discrepancies between the area percentages. Since a proof free of discrepancies can be obtained in the vicinity of highlights of the image which are greatly affected by area percentage variations, the observer

can evaluate the proof more effectively.

The color conversion table generator 18 can further modify the color conversion table LUT (CMYK \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') according to constraint conditions for equalizing dot gains between the printed material and the proof.

Specifically, because of the effect of dot gains based on the characteristics of the proof sheet and inks, an input-to-output relationship represented by the solid-line curve in FIG. 7 exists between the printing image data C, M, Y, K (the proof image data C', M', Y', K') and the luminance L* of the printed material (the proof). In view of the above input-to-output relationship, the color conversion table generator 18 modifies the color conversion table LUT (CMYK \rightarrow C'M'Y'K') for thereby reproducing the effect of dot gains on the proof for more accurate image evaluation.

More specifically, if it is assumed that the luminance of a printing sheet itself is represented by T0, the luminance of an ink recorded according to either one of the printing image data C, M, Y, K as a solid area (halftone dot 100 %) on the printing sheet is represented by T1, and the luminance of the ink recorded at a halftone dot area percentage t is represented by Tt, then the effective halftone dot area percentage Te of the printed material is expressed by:

$$Te = (T0 - Tt)/(T0 - T1) \quad \cdots(1)$$

If it is assumed that the luminance of a proof sheet itself is represented by P0, the luminance of an ink record-

ed according to either one of the proof image data C', M', Y', K' which correspond to the printing image data C, M, Y, K as a solid area (halftone dot 100 %) on the proof sheet is represented by P1, and the luminance of the ink recorded at a halftone dot area percentage p is represented by Pp, then the effective halftone dot area percentage Pe of the proof is expressed by:

$$Pe = (P0 - Pt)/(P0 - P1) \quad \dots(2)$$

In order to equalize the effective halftone dot area percentage Te of the printed material and the effective halftone dot area percentage Pe of the proof to each other, the equations (1), (2) are equalized as follows:

$$p = P^{-1}\{P0 - (T0 - Tt) \cdot (P0 - Pp)/(T0 - T1)\} \quad \dots(3)$$

for thereby determining the relationship between the halftone dot area percentage p of the proof and the halftone dot area percentage t of the printed material. In the equation (3), P⁻¹ indicates the inverse function of Pp.

If constraint conditions for saving the dot gain of particular primary color data are set, then a new color conversion table LUT (CMYK → C'M'Y'K') can be obtained by modifying the color conversion table LUT (CMYK → C'M'Y'K') with respect to the particular primary color data according to the equation (3).

FIG. 8 shows a displayed image for setting constraint conditions according to another embodiment of the present invention. In the displayed image shown in FIG. 8, the op-

erator can set a constraint condition as to whether primary color data and secondary color data are to be simultaneously constrained or not. If the constraint condition is set to simultaneously constrain primary color data and secondary color data, then all color data of C, M, Y, K, R, G, B are constrained before and after color data conversion.

In the displayed image shown in FIG. 8, the operator can also specify ranges in which halftone dot area percentages are to be equalized with respect to the respective primary color data of C, M, Y, K. In the example shown in FIG. 8, constraint conditions are set in which halftone dot area percentages are equalized in highlights (0 %) and shadows (100 %) of the primary color data.

In the above embodiment, after a color conversion table is generated while the relationship between printing image data K and proof image data K is being fixed, a new color conversion table with constraint conditions is generated according to constraint conditions. Therefore, an always constrained relationship is obtained with respect to K (black).

However, after a basic color conversion table is generated without K (black) being fixed, constraint conditions for color mixing prevention as shown in FIG. 4 may be set with respect to the printing image data C, M, Y, K including K (black). Constraint conditions for area percentage equalization priority as shown in FIG. 5 and constraint conditions for equalizing dot gains may similarly be set.

In the above embodiment, after the color conversion ta-

ble generator 18 has generated a basic color conversion table prior to the setting of constraint conditions, the basic color conversion table is modified according to constraint conditions. However, a color conversion table may be generated with constraint conditions initially added thereto.

Although certain preferred embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described in detail, it should be understood that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating a color conversion table for converting color data D to be processed by a first device into color data D' to be processed by a second device, comprising the steps of:

setting a constraint condition;

generating a color conversion table between at least portions of said color data D, D' according to said constraint conditions; and

generating a color conversion table between remainders of said color data D, D' in colorimetric association therewith.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said constraint condition comprises a condition for constraining a relationship for converting at least one primary color data.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said constraint condition comprises a condition for constraining a relationship for converting at least one secondary color data.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said constraint condition comprises a condition for saving halftone dot area percentages of particular ranges in said at least portions of said color data D, D'.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein said particular range is established in a highlight area and/or a shadow area of said color data D, D'.

5 6. A method according to claim 4, wherein said constraint condition comprises a condition for equalizing the halftone dot area percentages of said particular ranges in said at least portions of said color data D, D', and a condition for gradually shifting halftone dot area percentages of junction ranges between said particular ranges and other ranges from the halftone dot area percentage of said color data D to the halftone dot area percentage of said color data D'.

10
15 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said condition for gradually shifting the halftone dot area percentages of the junction ranges comprises a condition for interpolating the halftone dot area percentages of said particular ranges and the halftone dot area percentages of the junction ranges.

20 8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said constraint condition comprises a condition for saving dot gains of said at least portions of said color data D, D'.

25 9. An apparatus for generating a color conversion table for converting color data D to be processed by a first de-

vice into color data D' to be processed by a second device, comprising:

constraint condition setting means for setting a constraint condition; and

5 color conversion table generating means for generating a color conversion table between at least portions of said color data D, D' according to said constraint conditions, and generating a color conversion table between remainders of said color data D, D' in colorimetric association therewith.

10 10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said constraint condition setting means comprises:

15 constraint condition storage means for storing constraint conditions; and

constraint condition selecting means for selecting the desirable constraint condition from said constraint condition storage means.

20 11. An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

color conversion table storage means for storing a color conversion table in colorimetric association between all said color data D, D';

25 said color conversion table generating means comprising means for modifying said color conversion table into a new color conversion table based on said constraint condition.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said color conversion table storage means comprises:

a first profile storage unit for storing a first profile representing a conversion relationship between said color data D and colorimetric data; and

a second profile storage unit for storing a second profile representing a conversion relationship between said colorimetric data and color data D'.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said first profile comprises a profile established depending on printing conditions of a printing machine, and said second profile comprises a profile established depending on output conditions of a printer.

14. An apparatus for generating a proof by converting image data composed of color data D to be processed by a first device into image data composed of color data D' to be processed by a second device, using a color conversion table, and generating a proof of an image produced by said first device with said second device, comprising:

constraint condition setting means for setting a constraint condition;

color conversion table generating means for generating a color conversion table between at least portions of said color data D, D' according to said constraint conditions, and generating a color conversion table between remainders

of said color data D, D' in colorimetric association there-
with;

color converting means for converting said color data D
into said color data D' using said color conversion table
generated by said color conversion table generating means;
and

proof output means for outputting said proof based on
said color data D'.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said
constraint condition setting means comprises:

constraint condition storage means for storing con-
straint conditions; and

constraint condition selecting means for selecting the
constraint condition from said constraint condition storage
means.

16. An apparatus according to claim 14, further com-
prising:

color conversion table storage means for storing a
color conversion table in colorimetric association between
all said color data D, D';

said color conversion table generating means comprising
means for modifying said color conversion table into a new
color conversion table based on said constraint condition.

17. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said

proof output means comprises a printer.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

For converting color data to be processed by a first device into color data to be processed by a second device, using a color conversion table, a constraint condition is set between the color data, and a color conversion table between at least portions of the color data is generated according to the constraint conditions, whereas a color conversion table between remainders of the color data is generated in colorimetric association therewith.

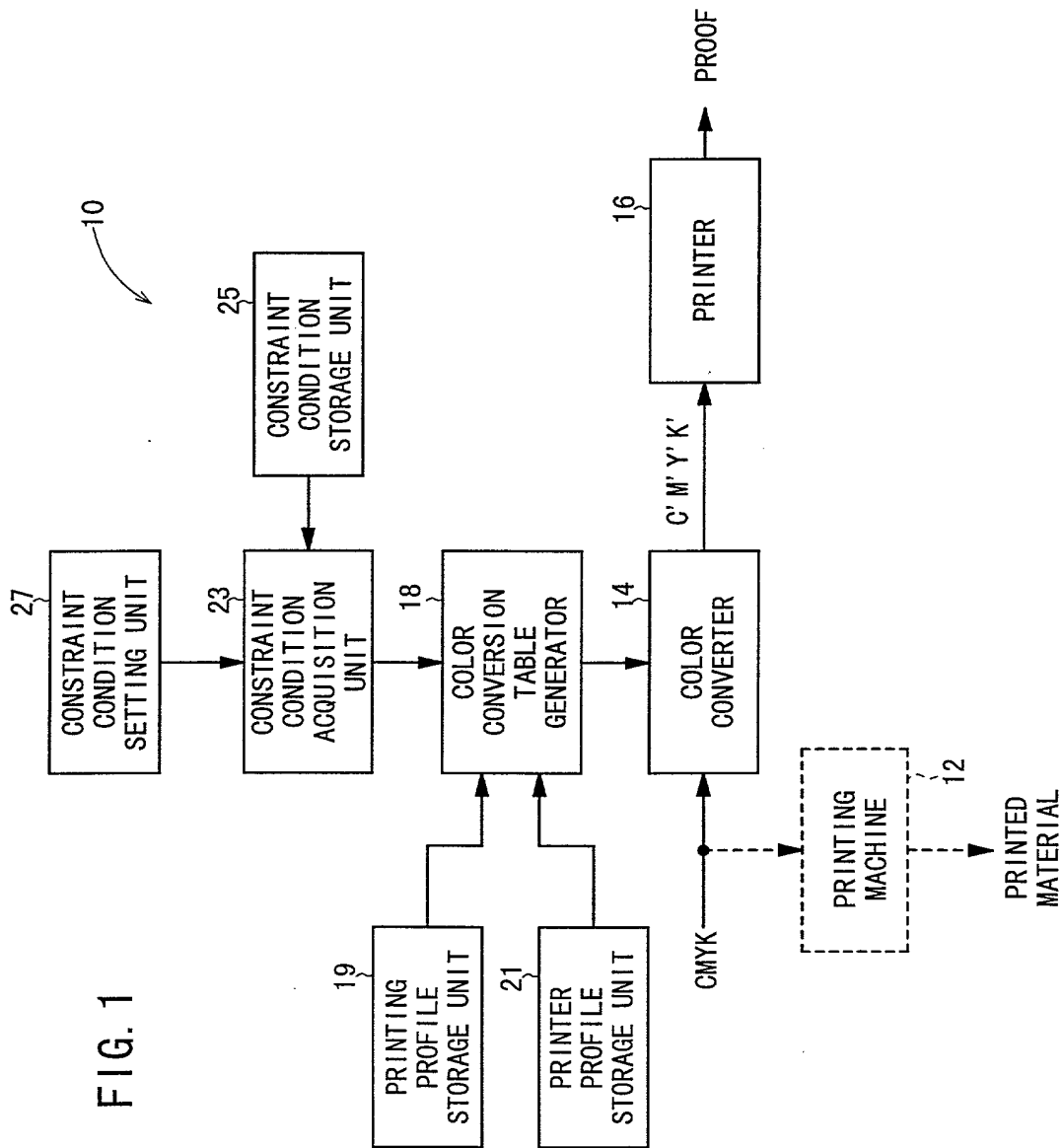


FIG. 2

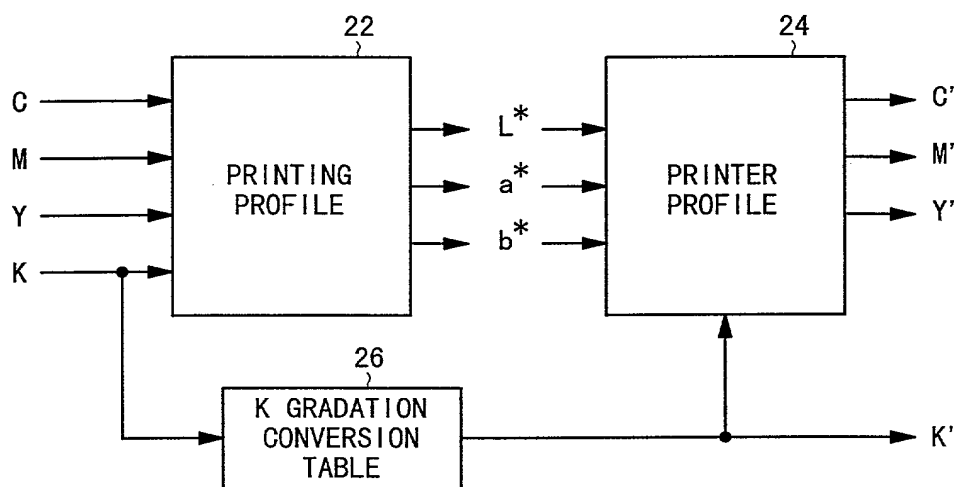


FIG. 3

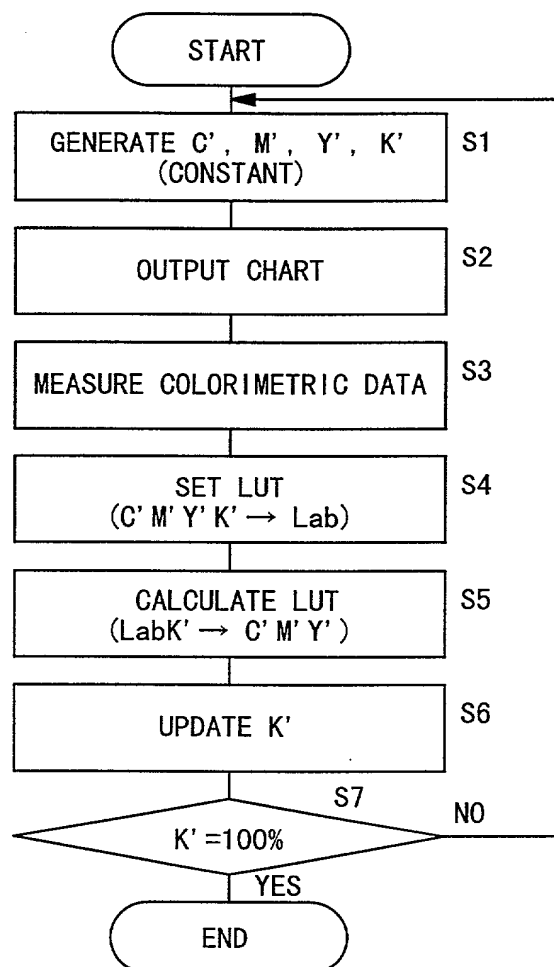


FIG. 4

COLOR MIXING PREVENTION

SAVE PRIMARY COLORS

☐☐☒☐

SAVE SECONDARY COLORS

☒☒☐

FIG. 5

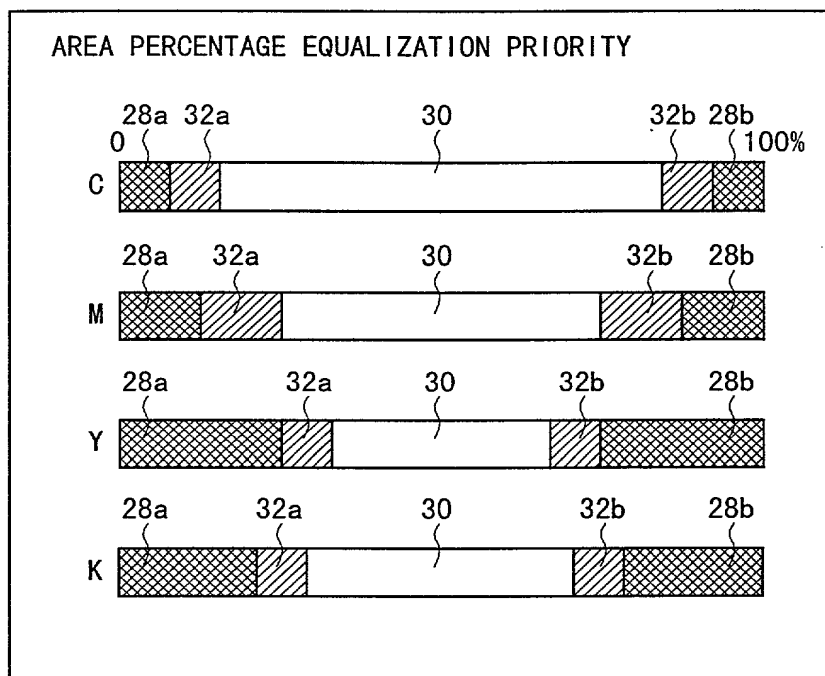


FIG. 6

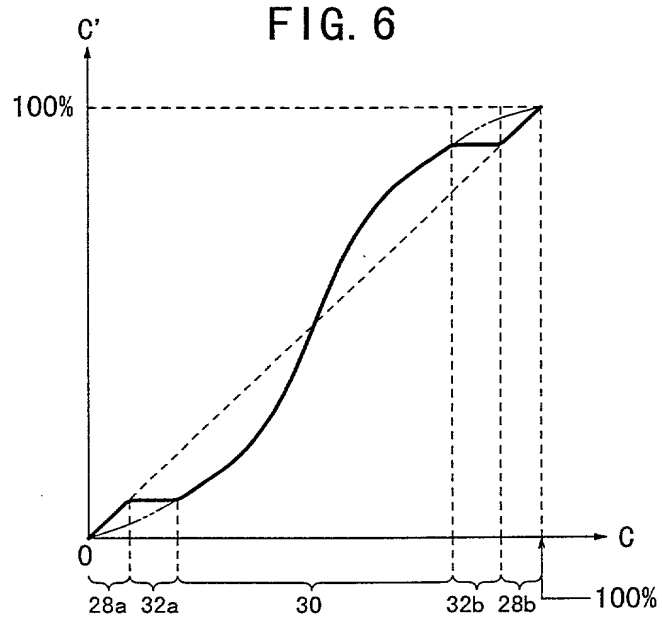


FIG. 7

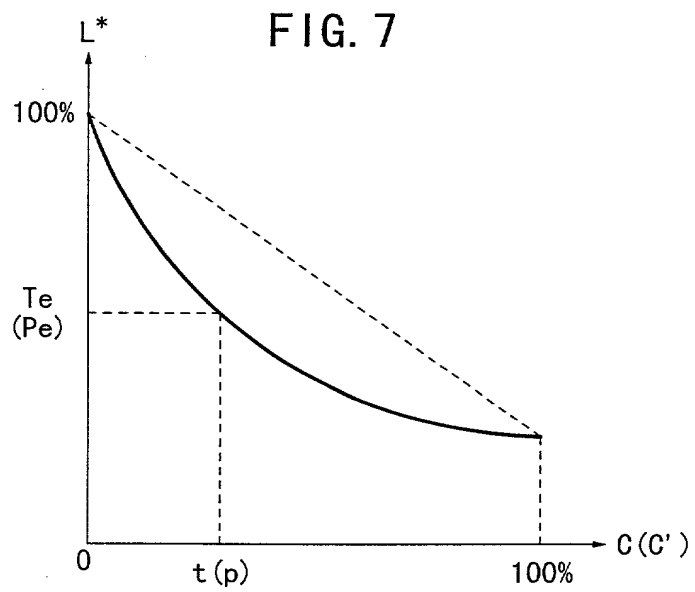


FIG. 8

☒ SAVE PRIMARY COLORS,
SECONDARY COLORS

INDICATION OF PRIMARY COLOR
HALFTONE % GRADATION

	HL	SH
C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 - 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100 - 100
M	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 - 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100 - 100
Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 - 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100 - 100
K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 - 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100 - 100

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name,

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者(下記の氏名が一つの場合)もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると(下記の名称が複数の場合)信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING COLOR

CONVERSION TABLE AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING

PROOF USING COLOR CONVERSION TABLE

上記発明の明細書(下記の欄でX印がついていない場合は、本書に添付)は、

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ ____月 ____日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約

☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number

国際出願番号を _____ とし、

(該当する場合) _____ に訂正されました。

_____ and was amended on

_____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

Japanese Language Declaration

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私は、米国法典第35編第119条(a)-(d)項又は第365条(b)項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約第365条(a)項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Applications

外国での先行出願

Patent Application
No. 11-213485

(Number)
(番号)

Japan

(Country)
(国名)

Patent Application
No. 2000-185377

(Number)
(番号)

Japan

(Country)
(国名)

(Number)
(番号)

(Country)
(国名)

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(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

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(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

私は、私自身の知識に基づいて本宣言中で私が行う表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信ずるところに基づく表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行えば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed

優先権主張なし

28 July 1999

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願年月日)

☐

June 20, 2000

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願年月日)

☒

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願年月日)

☐

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose any material information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Japanese Language Declaration

(日本語宣言書)

委任状: 私は、下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米国特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士又は代理人として、下記のことを指名致します。(弁護士、又は代理人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

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